

Sustainability Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
January 14, 2015

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Shawn Santesiere, Rich Miller, Paul Shapiro, Kristin Schwab, Joyce & George Rawitscher (guests), Jennifer Kaufman (staff), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 by Stoddard.

The November 12 and December 10, 2014 meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Shapiro/Stoddard.

Kaufman handed out information about Mansfield Tomorrow noting that chapters 2, 5, 8, 9 and 10 are the most relevant to the committee's focus. The plan is in the 60 day comment period. Individuals can comment in writing or through the website link <http://www.mansfieldtomorrow.com/draft-plan-released/>. The committee needs to submit its comments by February 23, 2015 so that they can be included in the packet for the Planning and Zoning Commission. Members decided that an additional meeting will not be necessary since the February meeting will be devoted entirely to the plan.

From the discussion on the draft UConn master plan, the committee's overarching criticism was that throughout the plan connections need to be made with the Mansfield community and region. There were several suggested ways to collaborate:

1. Work with the Town of Mansfield, its committees and Storrs Center planners to plan for the greater community.
2. Use the town-owned land behind EO Smith to integrate and create connectivity between the campus and town/community land uses (school, town hall, community center).
3. Consider ways to integrate the northern campus with town land uses and create greater connection with community.
4. In developing micro-grids, ensure that they will serve the broader community.
5. Integrate UConn's bicycle network into town and regional bike networks and collaborate on bike/pedestrian planning with the Mansfield bike advocacy group.
6. Enhance UConn's leadership as an agricultural school by filling in the gaps of agricultural infrastructure and making them accessible to local farms (e.g., perhaps UConn can play a role in providing a commercial kitchen and slaughtering facilities).
7. Work with Mansfield in the development and integration of a climate change action plan that complements UConn's climate plan.

There were several elements of the plan that the Mansfield Sustainability Committee applauded:

1. Accelerated action to achieve UConn's carbon reduction goals.
2. The creation of woodland and natural landscape corridors within the campus that will connect to the community.
3. The expansion of multi-use districts based on smart growth/mixed use principles.
4. The development of the Depot Campus, through public/private partnerships and coordination with town planning efforts.
5. The use of solar and other renewable resources.

Walton voiced concern about promoting the use of bio-based containers as stated in the materials section of the sustainability framework. Bio-based (biodegradable) containers mixed with recyclables interfere in the recycling process. The value of reuse and waste prevention is noted in this section. UConn currently

operates an office surplus store, provides food recovery to community shelters and offers the spring Give and Go program. These activities should be given a presence and greater support in the plan by adding reuse and capture of materials as a goal.

Lynn will draft the committee's comments so that they can be submitted to the Town Manager by January 16, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton